

Lake County

Supervisor Ed Robey Jr.
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Yolo County

Supervisor Duane Chamberlain
625 Court Street, Room 204
Woodland, CA 95695
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April 20, 2005

Robert Schneider
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova CA 95670

SUBJECT: Cache Creek, Bear Creek, and Harley Gulch TMDL for Mercury

Dear Chairman Schneider,

We are writing on behalf of the Cache Creek Watershed Forum (CCWF), a group formed by Lake County and Yolo County to discuss Cache Creek issues of interest to citizens, organizations and agencies in both counties. As you know, the mercury Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Clear Lake is already complete, and we recently became aware of the proposed mercury TMDL for Cache Creek, Bear Creek, and Harley Gulch.

We are concerned that implementation measures proposed by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) staff, as part of the TMDL, will impose significant hindrances on activities undertaken by both counties along the creek. These activities include invasive species removal, wildlife habitat restoration, infrastructure maintenance and agriculture. Members of the CCWF are concerned about the high cost of potential monitoring and remediation requirements, especially considering the lack of state and federal funding to assist landowners, government entities or businesses with compliance.

As RWQCB staff understand, mercury loadings from abandoned mercury mines in Lake County, downstream of Clear Lake, are a primary concern. However, it is not clear at this time that regulating activities along the creek would demonstrably reduce the accumulation of methyl mercury in fish tissue. Members of CCWF would like to understand the intended benefits of the implementation measures that would result from this process and how activities along Cache Creek would be regulated.

It is our understanding that staff will bring the TMDL to the RWQCB for adoption in June 2005. As of the date of this letter, a peer-reviewed version of the TMDL has not been made publicly available. We would like to invite RWQCB staff to give a presentation on the proposed TMDL at the next CCWF meeting on May 25 at the Rumsey Hall in Rumsey from 10 a.m. to noon.

Please contact Barbara Fleck, CCWF coordinator, at 530-662-2037 ext. 117, to arrange logistics for a presentation. Thank you in advance for responding to our concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Duane Chamberlain".

Duane Chamberlain
Yolo County Supervisor
Co-Chair CCWF

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ed Robey".

Ed Robey
Lake County Supervisor
Co-Chair CCWF